

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) A method for customizing a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a customer order, wherein the customer order specifies customization information for a computer system;

programming customization parameters into a configuration mechanism, wherein the configuration parameters correspond to the customization information;

sending the configuration mechanism to a customer;

sending a computer system to the customer, the computer system being adapted to receive the configuration mechanism and to customize the computer system according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism;

providing instructions to the customer to install the configuration mechanism in the computer system; and

providing instructions to the customer to initiate a boot process; wherein, the computer system includes a data storage device having a first partition including a first operating system, and a second partition including a second operating system and, in response to the initiation of the boot process, the computer system first boots to the second partition to execute the second operating system which causes the first operating system in the first partition to be customized according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism and, upon completion of the customization of the first operating system, the computer system boots to the first partition and executes the first operating system.

Claims 5-22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of the configuration mechanism allowing a system administrator to manage the computer system remotely independent of an on or off status of the computer system.

Claim 24. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of the configuration mechanism monitoring at least one computer system component for at least one problem event.

Claim 25. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of the configuration mechanism notifying a system administrator of an occurrence of the at least one problem event.

Claim 26. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

- including the configuration mechanism in an adapter pluggable into the computer system, the adapter including a communications port;
- storing the customization information in a memory;
- converting the customization information stored in the memory to the customization parameters;
- loading the customization parameters from the memory to the configuration mechanism via the adapter communications port.

Claim 27. (New) The method of claim 4, further including the step of shipping the computer system and the configuration mechanism separately but in a same shipment to the customer.

Claim 28. (New) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of the configuration parameters comprising at least one of a group comprising a computer name, a host name, a host IP address, a host gateway and a host subnet.

Claim 29. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the customized first operating system has a size of at least about 10 gigabytes.